SOFTSYNC, INC.

THE COMPUTER MECHANIC

ATARI

A COMPUTERIZED AUTOMOTIVE INSTRUCTION AND DIAGNOSTIC TOOL

Your car's dependability and longevity can be affected by your service and preventive maintenance practices.

THE COMPUTER MECHANIC is an easy to use program that teaches you the basics of auto maintenance and simultaneously lets you record your car's maintenance history.

Drawing from the vehicle data stored, the program creates future maintenance schedules for each car while providing a complete diagnostic guide to troubleshooting.

The program has virtually unlimited storage capabilities. If you are using the disk version you can store vital information on over 60 vehicles ona single diskette. The cassette version also allows up to 60 vehicles to be accessed at once. Of course these can be saved onto a blank cassette, allowing you unlimited files.

Vital information such as the dates and mileage of the last oil change, tune-ups, brake jobs, tire rotation, and transmission checks is entered and then integrated into a maintenance schedule which will remind you when cars are due for service.

A section illustrates exactly how to perform maintenance and service procedures on your car and includes many computer generated graphics to greatly simplify your understanding and the applications. Each section is color coded for quick identification and all information can be easily updated.

A memo pad feature is included so you can store brief reminders or special instructions and all information can be easily updated.

THE COMPUTER MECHANIC is conveniently set up with a main menu and on-screen instructions to guide you through each important section.

SETTING UP

Insert the BASIC cartridge into your computer. Turn on the disk drive. WAIT FOR THE RED LIGHT TO GO OUT ON THE DISK DRIVE. Carefully insert the disk, label side up. Turn on your Atari computer.

Once loaded, THE COMPUTER MECHANIC will present you with a Main Menu:

1. INITIALIZE RECORDKEEPER
2. ADD A RECORD
3. SEARCH FOR A RECORD
4. DIAGNOSTIC SECTION
5. EXIT PROGRAM
6. WHEN TO CHECK SECTION
7. HOW TO CHECK SECTION

The cassette and disk versions work in the same way, except for initialization, covered next, and the SAVE/LOAD routine which is #8 in the cassette menu only.

1. INITIALIZE RECORDKEEPER

If you are using a disk drive, the first time you use THE COMPUTER MECHANIC you will need to initialize a disk. Remove THE COMPUTER MECHANIC master disk from the drive (Make sure the RED LIGHT on the disk drive is OFF.) and insert a blank disk. Press 1 and RETURN. You will be reminded that initializing will erase anything already on the disk so be sure you have removed THE COMPUTER MECHANIC master and inserted a blank disk.

Type Y (yes) to proceed. You are asked the number of records you wish to enter. This means the approximate number you may ultimately enter. While the disk will hold 60 records, it's a good idea to estimate about how many you will need. If you're only expecting to store 15 car records on the disk, the program will operate faster if you initialize for 15 instead of 60. Of course, it's always a good idea to leave room for some unanticipated vehicles. if you eventually run out of space, you can continue to add records and the program will have room for them.

2. ADD A RECORD

This is your MAINTENANCE FILE. Using this section, you can add all of your vehicle records.

First you'll be asked to assign an I.D. to the vehicle for later retrieval. Use numbers or letters if you like, but REMEMBER each car I.D. must be unique. If you have two 1983 Fords, enter them as FORD83A and FORD83B. Also do not start a file name with a number. Enter FORD 83, not 1983 FORD. Do not leave spaces. Enter CHEVY1, not CHEVY 1.

Next you will be asked a number of questions regarding maintenance and asked to enter the date and the mileage at which certain jobs were done on the car. Be sure to enter the date with slashes (i.e. 1/2/83) and to enter the mileage WITHOUT comas (i.e. 5000).

You'll be asked the date and mileage of the last: OIL CHANGE, TUNE UP, BRAKE JOB, TIRE ROTATION AND TRANSMISSION CHECK.

If you don't have an answer for any of these entries, just press RETURN and it will skip to the next question.

The program will automatically update the file at this time. Make sure your data disk is in the drive. Once the program is saved, you can add another entry or return to the main menu.

NOTE: If you enter the same name of a vehicle (i.e., FORD 83) twice, the program will replace the earlier file with the new entry.)

3. SEARCH FOR A RECORD

Once you've entered the data on each vehicle you can refer to it as well as make changes and enter updates in this section by pressing 3 and RETURN.

Enter the I.D. of the vehicle you wish to review. (If the I.D. is not found, the program will print out the file names of the cars stored.

You'll see the latest records of maintenance and the special message reports. A prompt asks if you wish to update. If so a list of each maintenance question appears and you can easily update any one required.

4. DIAGNOSTIC SECTION

This section is for diagnosing problems you may be having with any of your cars.

The diagnostic section is designed as a back and forth, question and answer dialogue. The computer asks a question and provides you with a list of possible answers or descriptions. You choose the one that best describes the problem and enter it. The computer will ask another question, based on your response, thus zeroing in on the problem and making suggestions as you go along.

Sometimes you'll be given more than one possible solution to a problem. In this case you would naturally try the most obvious, easiest and least expensive solution first. Your common sense and 'hands on' experience should guide you.

CAUTION: Whenever you attempt any repair or maintenance procedure, be sure to take the normal safety precautions.

5. EXIT PROGRAM

This menu choice is to clear the program from the computer's memory. You will be asked if you are sure you want to clear the program. Since the disk is up-to-date you may do so if you are finished with the program.

6. WHEN TO CHECK SECTION

This section integrates with the data base section to give you specific maintenance schedules for each vehicle.

When you press #6 you'll see an yellow color coded sub-menu with choices for examining when your vehicle is due for maintenance in the following areas: BRAKES, SUSPENSION, TIRES, TRANSMISSION, ENGINE, COOLING SYSTEM, FUEL AND EMMISSIONS.

If you'd like to examine the schedule for a specific car then go back to section #3. SEARCH FOR A RECORD. Call up the vehicle of your choice, examine or update any information if necessary and then go back to section #6. You'll find that vehicle is now 'plugged into' this section. NOTE:

NOTE: If you do not search for a specific record, the program will automatically access the last record entered in the computer.

To illustrate this section, try the braking system first, by pressing #1 on the 'When To Check' Sub-Menu. You'll see the vehicle name you chose to examine at the top of the screen. Descriptions of the different areas of the braking system you should check are given with the mileage at which that particular car should be checked. For example, if you last checked your brake pads and shoes at 5000 miles (which you indicated in the record section) the program will recommend that you check them again at 11,000 miles.

You can continue through all the other vehicle areas covered in this section, checking over 25 key maintenance points.

7. HOW TO CHECK

This section, color coded blue, is structured like the last section in that it covers, with a sub-menu: BRAKES, SUSPENSION,TIRES, TRANSMISSION, ENGINE, COOLING, FUEL AND EMMISSIONS.

However, here you are shown methods of how to actually check key sections of the vehicle and look for potential repairs. Many of these methods will help you to avoid costly repairs and extend the life of the car while others are intended to help you maintain a safe car. You'll find a number of illustrations to help you identify the parts you are looking for.

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SOFTSYNC warrrants to the original consumer purchaser of any product it manufactures, that the product will be free of defects in material or workmanship for 90 dyas from the date of purchase under normal in-house use.

If your product fails to operate properly DURING THE FIRST 90 DAYS AFTER PURCHASE, return it postage prepaid and insured, with your name, address, proof of the date of purchase and a brief description of the problem, to SOFTSYNC as listed. If the product is found to be factory defective during the first 90 days, it will be repaired or replaced at no cost to you. If the product is found to have been consumer damaged or abused it therefore will not be covered by the warranty, then you will be advised in advance of repair costs.

SOFTSYNC's sole and exclusive liability for defects in material and workmanship shall be limited to repair or replacement at its authorized Service Station and SOFTSYNC shall in no event be liable for incidental, consequential contingent or any other damages. (Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you). This warranty does not obligate SOFTSYNC to bear the cost of transportation charges in connection with the repair or replacement of defective parts.

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This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may have other rights which vary from state to state.

If the product requires service after expiration of the 90 day Limited Warranty period, SOFTSYNC will service the product and put it in working condition or replace it with a reconditioned unit (at our option), on receipt of the product, postage prepaid and insured, with your check in the amount of $2 for cassette, $5 for diskette and $10 for cartridge payable to SOFTSYNC, INC.

All returns must be directed to:

SOFTSYNC, INC.
14 East 34th Street
New York, NY 10016

For service information, call (212) 685-2080 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Eastern time, Monday thru Friday.